

Message Text

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15

ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0137

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON FINAL SINAI II PULL BACKS

1. EGYPTIAN MEDIA OF FEBRUARY 17 HIGHLIGHTS FINAL ISRAELI PULL BACKS TO BE COMPLETED IN SINAI FEBRUARY 22. AKHBAR LEADS WITH STORY CLAIMING EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL "TAKE OVER THE AREA OF THE PASSES AND THE VILLAGES OF NORTH SINAI COAST" FEBRAURY 21. EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL ALSO TAKE OVER BALUZA AREA, WHICH IS ONE OF FOUR STRONG POINTS HANDED OVER IN TAC (OTHER THREE NOT SPECIFIED). PAPER REPORTS GOE HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE NORTH SINAI COAST AREA IN WHICH LIVE MORE THAN 2000 BEDOUINS IN AREAS OF BALUZA, RAB'A, NAKHAYLA, RUMMNA, QATIBA, AND AL-KHARBA. ISRAELI FORCES, PRESS CLAIMS, HAD DEPORTED AND GROUPED SINAI BEDOUINS IN THESE VILLAGES AFTER 1967 TO PRESERVE SECURITY IF ODF IN SINAI.

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THERE WILL BE LARGE POPULAR AND OFFICIAL CELEBRATION IN NEWLY LIBERATED AREAS WHEN EGYPTIAN

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FLAG IS RAISED. SECOND CELEBRATION WILL BE ELD

FEBRUARY 23 ON OCCASION OF RETURN CIVIL ADMINISTRATION
TO QANTARA EAST; PRESIDENT SADAT HAS APPROVED ALLOCATION
OF LE 500,000 CITY CITY'S RECONSTRUCTION.

3. COMMENT: IN REPORTING THIS STORY PRESS HAS EMPLOYED
GENERAL AND VAGUE TERMS TO PROVIDE READERS WITH EXAGGERATED
ACCOUNT OF WHAT AREAS EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL TAKE OVER ON FEBRUARY 22.
EILTS

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